

Central Coventry Fire District

Board of Directors

July 17, 2007 – 7:00pm

Central Coventry Fire Station 4

Minutes

1.Call to Order – 7:00 pm

2.Roll Call

President: Girard Bouchard

Robert Crowe - Anna Mae Lapinski - Joe Bonn - Richard Tellier

Treasurer: Tom LaColle

Linda Bennet - Chief Seltzer - Asst. Chief Scott Tucker

VP: Michael New, Tax Collector – Jeanne Graemiger – Not Present

**3.Seek to Convene an Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5
(a)(1)**

Personnel – Financial Analyst

Into Executive Session at 7:06 pm

Motion: Richard Tellier Seconded: Anna Mae Lapinski

Roll Call Vote – All Vote Aye

Motion to reconvene Open Session 7:56 pm

Motion: Anna Mae Lapinski Seconded: Richard Tellier

Roll Call Vote – All Vote Aye

Motion to Seal Minutes of the Executive Session

Motion: Anna Mae Lapinski Seconded: Richard Tellier

All Vote Aye

4.Approval of Minutes of the previous Board of Directors Meeting – 6/19/2007

Motion: Robert Crowe Seconded: Richard Tellier

All Vote Aye

5.Old Business

Awards Ceremony will be this Friday. Invitations have gone out. Everything is all set.

Veteran's Exemption – Hold this issue Chief Seltzer has some information in his report.

Issue with Cardi Property and Tiogue FD

A letter was received from Steven Cardi with copies of cancelled checks. Mr. Bouchard compiled all of the information into a report. Mr. Cardi appears to have been making payments on time. There has been a lot of work put into this issue and Mr. Bouchard feels that Mr. Cardi is current and all interest should be waived. Board members agreed that this was an issue from before anyone present was involved and should be resolved.

Motion made to declare the accounts current, apply the unprocessed payments to the current year and go forward from there. A letter is to be sent to the Tax Collector informing her of the Board's decision.

Motion: Girard Bouchard Seconded: Anna Mae Lapinski

All Vote Aye

Also, a letter should be sent to Mr. Cardi informing him of the Board's decision.

6. President's Report

Mr. Bouchard read a letter received by Chief Seltzer from Michael Dubis regarding his interest in serving on the Board. Information as to how & when the elections will take place should be sent to him. Mr. Bouchard brought up a problem that has cropped up as far as the election. Nomination papers have not been submitted in a timely fashion. They should have been submitted 60 days in advance of the meeting. We will have to hold a special meeting after the annual meeting. Chief Seltzer stated that the Annual meeting was posted last week but upon reviewing the charter he discovered that nominations had to be in 60 days prior not 30 days prior as we thought. He then read directly from the charter. Chief Seltzer has the forms and procedures used by the district prior to the merger. They will be modified to fit the new charter and copies will be distributed to all Board members. Mr. Bouchard has tried several times to contact Mr. New regarding his email about resigning his position. The board feels that his intention was to not seek re-election.

Accepted as Presented

Motion: Robert Crowe Seconded: Joe Bonn

All Vote Aye

7.Chief's Report

Administration

6.We have received a letter from Paul Sprague regarding the Veteran's Exemption. It confirms our position of not allowing the exemption.

Accepted as Presented

Motion: Richard Tellier Seconded: Robert Crowe

All Vote Aye

There was some discussion of the possibility of working with Churchill & Banks on locating a new fire station at the Brookside Center (Old Kmart Plaza). The possibility of offering tax incentives was brought up by Mr. Crowe. Chief Seltzer will set up a meeting with Churchill & Banks to see what they are willing to do and go from there. Also the Chief is gather information on an appraisal of Station 3.

Mr. Bouchard, with agreement from the Board, directs the Clerk to send a letter to Mr. Streaker in response to his request for a veteran's exemption. The letter will inform him that we will not be instituting any exemptions. A copy of Mr. Sprague's letter will be included.

Mr. Bouchard asked that Ms. Lapinski go to the Open Government

Summit. She will check her work schedule and attend if she is able.

Discussion was held regarding a new Dive Team Truck. Chief Seltzer recommended a used rescue or a similar box type truck. He is to come back to the Board with some specific recommendations.

8.Treasurer's Report – held until budget discussion

9.Tax Collector's Report

Mrs. Graemiger provided a report but could not stay for the meeting. Mr. LaColle spoke to her before she left and she is not sure if she is going to have all of the valuation info ready for the Annual Meeting as the Town is not allowing access to the info because they are not finished with what they need to do. There was some discussion regarding setting a range for the tax rate or a maximum tax rate if we don't have all the valuation information.

The second page is a report of the accounts for each district that are going for tax sale. Also this year all four districts will be merged into one tax roll.

In the past Mrs. Graemiger has purchased envelopes with postage already on them to send the bills out. This usually runs around \$4,500. The Post Office has a new tax exempt plan that offers a reduced rate. If we are approved for it the cost would go down to approximately \$1,000.

Accepted as Presented

Motion: Robert Crowe Seconded: Anna Mae Lapinski

All Vote Aye

10.New Business

2007 – 2008 Budget

Mr. LaColle presented the current expenditure information based on expenditures thru July 13, 2007. Chief Seltzer went thru the preliminary budget attached to his report line by line. There was some discussion regarding how much and when the money from the SAFER Grant comes in. There was also some discussion regarding outstanding loans. The only loans left are Rescue 3 & Engine 17. Chief Seltzer suggested the next Board meeting be only for the budget. The Board agreed that it was a good idea.

Mr. Bouchard asked if the Tiogue FD account at Coventry Credit Union has been closed or is there still money in it. Mr. LaColle responded that he had received a check from Warren West for \$11,000 a week and a half ago. This leaves a balance of approximately \$1,000. This account is being left open for direct deposits from grants. There are also accounts from Washington and Central Coventry that are open for the same reason.

Treasurer's Report Accepted as Presented

Motion: Robert Crowe Seconded: Richard Tellier

All Vote Aye

Direct Deposit

There was some discussion of what program(s) Mr. LaColle would need to process payroll as direct deposit. There will be additional costs to have direct deposit of approximately \$2,200 per year. Chief Seltzer brought up the fact that some employees had it before and were not happy about not having it, himself included. Also the guys were told that they would get it back. There was some discussion as to whether or not it should be mandatory for all employees.

Motion made by Mr. Bouchard to direct the Treasurer to start Direct Deposit and it will be mandatory for all employees.

Motion: Girard Bouchard Seconded: Richard Tellier

All Vote Aye

11.Introduction of new business to be considered at the next Board Meeting

Executive Session at 6:30 Regular Meeting will be only about the Budget

12.Adjournment - 9:45 pm

Motion: Anna Mae Lapinski Seconded: Joe Bonn

All Vote Aye